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mechanism for students in school during the change in structure. And, finally, there would be additional funding for need-based aid. So with that, I will stop on the introduction and wait for my opportunity on the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments offered by Education Committee. As Chairman, Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on AM0816.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I will continue with the committee amendment and, again, I hope in this opportunity to detail the specific components of the bill as amended by the committee amendment. I would mention to you that you will receive another handout. This one is not just a page of numbers. It actually has some writing on it. The title at the top is Nebraska Scholarship Act, and this details, I think, several of the provisions that I'm going to gloss over for you right now. The new pro...the new single program is named the Nebraska Scholarship Act. All eligible students would be served by this single program. The award to any student at any institution after a transition period would be limited to the smaller of that institution's tuition and fees or 25 percent of the tuition and fees at the highest-cost public institution and, currently, that would be UNL. A transition mechanism would allow students already participating in the program and receiving awards in excess of the limits to continue receiving their current award until they graduate. So this transition program is meant to hold students that are in the process harmless. Soon will be coming, if you don't already have them, are two additional handouts which show the new structure, the impact of the new structure, rather, on the distribution of aid among students at the various institutions. You've got them. One of the pages shows you the totals per group, and we start out with the estimated distribution in 2003-2004, and then work through each year of the transition. There would be three years of transition, and then a final imple...a full implementation year, rather, of 2007 and 2008. And you can see, I hope, on that page, how the distribution of dollar amounts of aid, both on the total dollars and the percentage, would change as we go through that distribution period, or that transition period.